

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

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SUBJECT: THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

REF:

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Communist forces are continuing to focus their main tactical effort in the provinces surrounding Saigon. Over the weekend, they maintained pressure in Hau Nghia Province, northwest of Saigon, against government positions which lie astride the Communists' major infiltration corridor to the Mekong Delta. Government forces garrisoned at Duc Hue, Trang Bang, and Cu Chi received shelling attacks and ground probes. Terrorist incidents against the civilian population in Duc Hue and Trang Bang resulted in seven killed and 71 wounded.

The Communists are also stepping up their attacks north and east of Saigon. Over the last few days, they have attacked and overrun a Regional Forces base at Chi Linh in Binh Long Province, and heavily shelled and assaulted government positions in the Duc Thanh

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district area of Phuouc Tuy Province. Senior ARVN commanders interpret these actions as a diversionary effort by the Communists to split government forces and weaken Saigon's defenses in Hau Nghia and Tay Ninh provinces. They believe that the main Communist objective at the moment, apart from securing their western infiltration corridor and expanding control in contested areas wherever possible, is to interdict Route 1 in the Trang Bang area and isolate Tay Ninh Province.